



Produce For People FAQ Sheet

Portland Community Garden's Produce For People (PFP) program, which sprouted in 1995 to combat Portland's high poverty rate, is a grassroots effort in which community gardeners turn their ability to produce food into an opportunity to fulfill the needs of the hungry. In concert with hunger relief agencies, the program seeks to provide Portland's emergency food shelters with fresh, nutritious, organic, locally grown food.

How to Start Produce for People at Your Garden:

- Volunteer to be the Produce for People Coordinator at your garden site
- Find two or three people who want to form a PFP Team
- If there are vacant plots in your garden, check with Community Gardens office to see if one can be designated for PFP.
- Encourage gardeners to plant an extra row for PFP in their garden plots
- Partner with a hunger-relief agency near your garden
- Coordinate weeding, watering and harvesting of produce to donate
- Establish an area (shed or shady spot) to be a drop-off site for gardeners to donate produce
- Establish a pick-up/delivery day and time for when donations are taken to the agency
- Work with the garden manager to communicate opportunities to get involved and delivery schedule to gardeners
- Keep accurate records of the weight of all food donated to the service agency

What to Grow:

Food pantries and soup kitchens need produce that stores and transports well. Refrigerated space is often limited, so foods that don't require refrigeration are always wanted. Here are some recommendations (please visit the Oregon Food Bank's website for more information:

<http://oregonfoodbank.org/Give-Food/Plant-a-Row-Program>):

- Tomatoes (pick when slightly under-ripe)
- Green beans
- Winter squash (acorn or butternut)
- Hot peppers
- Cucumbers
- Zucchini
- Collard greens
- Onions

How to Choose a Partner Agency

PFP Coordinators can select any recipient agency and often pick one close to the garden site. Each PFP Coordinator arranges for produce pick-ups or deliveries and communicates the schedule to the gardeners. After selecting a partner agency, it's helpful to ask them if they have any preferred crops and also check in mid-season to ask for any feedback.

Portland Community Gardens maintains a list of partner agencies on our website that we have established relationships with. For more information, scroll to the bottom of

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/401050>

